

AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling a release of personal information comprising:

depositing some personal information regarding an individual with a server;

using web crawler programs to locate and retrieve publicly-available information regarding said individual from a plurality of Internet-accessible sources;

presenting said some personal information over a wide area computer network to said individual to review and verify said some personal information's accuracy;

accepting commentary on the accuracy of said some personal information based on review from said individual, wherein said commentary includes explanations of incorrect information on said server;

obligating organizations that possess additional personal information regarding said individual to not disclose said additional personal information without authorization from said server; and

instructing said server to not release said some personal information held on the server and to not authorize release of said additional personal information at the obligated organizations without receiving authorization from said individual.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said server is Internet-accessible.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein using web crawler programs to locate and retrieve publicly-available information regarding said individual from a plurality of Internet-accessible sources occurs automatically.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said individual is a member of a database service.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said personal information comprises database entries.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said obligated organizations are subscribers to a database service.

7. (previously presented) A method for creating a database of verified personal information comprising:

using web crawler programs to locate and retrieve publicly-available information regarding said individual from a plurality of Internet-accessible sources;

presenting said information over a wide area computer network to said individual to review and verify said information's accuracy;

accepting commentary on the accuracy of said information based on said review from said individual over the wide area computer network, wherein said commentary includes explanations of incorrect information in said database;

including said commentary in said database with said information;

receiving a request over said wide area computer network from an authorized individual to review selected portions of said information;

instructing said server to not release said some personal information held on the server and to not authorize release of said additional personal information at the obligated organizations without receiving authorization from said individual;

presenting said request to said individual for authorization;

presenting said selected portions of said information over said wide area computer network to said authorized individual;

providing access to said database and said commentary to third parties; and

obligating organizations that possess additional personal information regarding said individual to not disclose said additional personal information without authorization from said server.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said wide area computer network is an internet.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said the step of automatically gathering information further comprises using web crawler programs to locate and retrieve publicly-available information regarding said individual from a plurality of Internet-accessible sources.

10. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said individual is a member of a database service.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said third parties are subscribers to a database service.

13. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said authorized individuals are members of a database service.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein obligating organizations that possess additional personal information regarding said individual to not disclose that additional personal information without authorization from said server comprises:

receiving a disclosure from said individual at said server identifying said organizations that possess said additional personal information;

contacting said organizations that possess said additional personal information with said server; and

receiving a contractual agreement from said organizations that possess said additional personal information to not release said additional personal information to third parties without first contacting said server for authorization.

15. (previously presented) A method for creating and sharing a database of verified personal information comprising:

using web crawler programs to locate and retrieve publicly-available information regarding said individual from a plurality of Internet-accessible sources;

presenting said information and the sources of said information over the wide area computer network to said individual to review and verify said information's accuracy;

accepting commentary on the accuracy of said information based on said review from said individual over the wide area computer network;

including said commentary in said database with said information;

receiving a request over said wide area computer network from an authorized individual to review selected portions of said information;

instructing said server to not release said some personal information held on the server and to not authorize release of said additional personal information at the obligated organizations without receiving authorization from said individual;

presenting said request to said individual for authorization;

presenting said selected portions of said information over said wide area computer network to said authorized individual along with identification of said sources of said selected portions of said information and any commentary on the accuracy of said selected portions of said information provided by said individual;

providing access to said database and said commentary to third parties; and

obligating organizations that possess additional personal information regarding said individual to not disclose said additional personal information without authorization from said server.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

supplementing said information regarding the individual by a continuous gathering process;

notifying said individual of updates to said information located by said continuous gathering process; and

accepting further commentary on the accuracy of said updates to said information from said individual over the wide area computer network.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving a search of said database from a third party that results in information about said individual being displayed to said third party; and
notifying said individual of said search and said display.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving additional information from said individual over the wide area computer network; and
receiving a designation from said individual designating said additional information as one of:
information to be made available to all subscribers of said database; and
information to be released only upon specific authorization of said individual.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the commentary on the accuracy of said information comprises an indication that a portion of said information is incorrectly associated with said individual.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising requiring said third parties to register with said database and present said database with identifying information prior to providing access to said database and to said commentary to said third parties.